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## THE AAA AND PENNSYLVANIA PASTURES

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I think every farmer is interested in good pastures because he knows they will provide feed economically. So I believe you'll be interested in knowing what Pennsylvania farmers are doing this year, with the help of the Triple-A, to improve the feed production from their permanent pastures.

To begin, they ran a trial on improving pastures with lime and superphosphate in Susquehanna county of Pennsylvania last year and found it to be an outstanding success. The plan was this: The Triple-A offered farmers who take part in the Triple-A program, lime and superphosphate for use on pastures. The lime and superphosphate was paid for by the conservation payments farmers earned for carrying out soil-building and soil-conserving practices. In effect, the farmers were allowed credit on their payments to obtain these soil-building materials. The only cash outlay was a small charge for handling and freight.

The plan was so successful that the Pennsylvania State Triple-A Committee decided this year to extend it to all counties. And now the plan is in operation on a statewide basis. "Going nicely" is the way officials describe the way the pasture improvement program is working. And it will continue all through the summer, giving Pennsylvania farmers the opportunity to obtain lime and superphosphate to use on their pasture lands. It is expected that they will improve three times the acreage of pastures they did in 1938. A great advantage of this plan is that farmers who otherwise are unable to purchase lime and superphosphate, can now obtain these materials for improving their pastures.

The materials are furnished on two conditions: first, that the cost does not exceed the soil-building payment which a farmer can earn this year; and second, that the farmer agrees to use the materials on his pasture.

Now that we've got the plan in mind, let's look into this pasture business and see what there's in it.

Let's talk about Pennsylvania for another moment. In that state it has been estimated by state authorities that an acre of good pasture can return a feed value from \$30 to \$40 annually. That's a good return on just one acre. In the Keystone state, farmers know that lime and phosphate stimulate vigorous growth and help bring in white clover and Kentucky blue grass, which are the foundation of good pastures for them. They know, too, that when the soil is made right, white clover and blue grass drive out and replace weeds and poorer grasses, and they know that both lime and phosphate are needed for good bone growth and milk production.

Listen to what one Pennsylvania farmer has to say about restoring bare pastures with lime and superphosphate. Glenn Congaware, a farmer near North Huntingdon says: "As part of my participation in the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program, I treated about 8 acres, using 1-1/2 tons of kiln-burned lime and 300 to 350 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate to the acre. Before treatment, that pasture was exceptionally bare, but the lime and superphosphate have brought it into a good stand of grass and clover. Where it came from I don't know.

(over)



Another thing that treatment has done is to eliminate the sour grass.

That's Mr. Congaware's experience, but farmers in other sections of the county find that pasture is not only good feed, but cheap feed, too. In seven districts where the United States Department of Agriculture studied requirements for market milk production, pastures furnished nearly one-third of all feed farmers gave their cows. But the pasture cost was only one-seventh of the total feed cost.

Beef cattle producers on 478 corn belt farms find that pasture lowers their feed costs, too. Their records showed that breeding cows got practically their entire living from pasture during 200 days of the year. Pasture furnished over half the feed--but it cost only a third of the total feed bill.

And so it goes, whether you farm in Pennsylvania, in California, or in Iowa --you'll find that good pastures are good business. That's one of the reasons why the Triple-A is helping farmers not only in Pennsylvania, but in the other northeastern states, in the east central states and in many of the southern states to use more lime and superphosphate this year for pasture improvement. And that partly explains the plan being tried in still other areas on an experimental basis this year, too.

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